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PSC 100S.02: Introduction to American Government

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

PSc 100 Section 2 / Spring 2003
T/Th 12:40 p.m. - 2 p.m. in LA #11
Professor: Jeffrey Greene

Office: LA 356 / Telephone: 243-6181 / Office Hours: 3-3:30 (T, Th)

E-mail: jeffrey@selway.umd.edu

Text: *American Government: The Essentials* (8th Edition), by Wilson and DiIulio

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PSc 100 is intended to introduce students to the fundamentals of **American National Government**. The course includes an examination of basic American political principles and practices, the Constitution, major institutions, and civil liberties. The objective of this course is to acquaint students with the complexities of the American political system. Specific learning objectives are included on the link at the bottom of the online syllabus. (*The link is provided at the bottom of this syllabus*).

Grade Weights

Test 150% March 20 (Thursday) *The exam covers Chapters 1 - 10*

Test 2 50% May 8 (Thursday) *The exam covers Chapters 11 - 16*

Test 3 (Optional)... Tuesday, May 13 at 8 a.m. in LA #11 (*Test #3 covers Chapters 1-16*)

Grade Ranges: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = any grade below 60.
Pass/Fail = 60 or higher

The last day that students can drop a class or change a grading option is **Monday, March 10**.

EXAMS: All exams will be objective tests (true/false and multiple choice). You do not need a *scantron* form for any of the exams; an answer sheet will be provided. The length of Exam #1 and Exam #2 vary from 50 to 100 questions. *Several formats of tests will be used during each exam.*

Test 3 is **OPTIONAL**, based on your satisfaction with your grade after Test 2. Test 1 and Test 2 *are not* comprehensive; **Test 3 will be comprehensive (that is, include specific material from the entire semester)**. If you select to take **Test 3**, each test is weighted as one-third. *The final exam typically consists of 250 questions.*

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY: All students are expected to take the exams at the times specified above. Make-up exams will be given in the event of extenuating circumstances. Students must make prior arrangements by calling either the Political Science Department office (243- 5202) or my office (243-6181) and leaving a message. You can also send a message by e-mail to jeffrey@selway.umt.edu. *Make-up exams will not be the same tests given during the scheduled time.*

SPECIAL CLASSES AND INFORMATION: There will be no class on **March 25 and 27** due to Spring Break.

TEACHING ASSISTANT: There is not a teaching assistant for this section of PSc 100.

POLITICAL SCIENCE WEB SITE: <http://www.umt.edu/polsci>

COURSE OUTLINE and READINGS

Introduction: What is Politics?

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 1

The Founding and The Constitution

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 2 + *The Constitution & Federalist #10*

Federalism

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 3

Political Culture

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 4

Public Opinion

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 5

Participation

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 6

Political Parties

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 7

Campaigns, and Elections

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 8

Interest Groups

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 9

The Media

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 10

TEST #1 Thursday, March 20 *(The exam covers Chapters 1-10)*

Congress

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 11

The Presidency

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 12

The Bureaucracy

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 13

The Judiciary

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapter 14

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Wilson & DiIulio: Chapters 15, 16

TEST #2 Thursday, May 8 *(The exam covers Chapters 11-16)*

TEST #3 Tuesday, May 13 at 8 a.m. in LA #11 *(Test #3 covers Chapters 1-16)*

(TEST #3 will be COMPREHENSIVE and is OPTIONAL! Students are not required to take the exam)

The online version of this syllabus includes many links, study guides, outlines, and some of the transparencies. The syllabus is located on my home page at <http://www.umd.edu/polsci> then click FACULTY. Next click the link to my home page (Jeffrey D. Greene); then click the link to the PSc 100 syllabus.